

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Add the following paragraph after line 2 on Page 1 (after the title):

This is a continuation of U.S. patent application, Serial No. 10/006,279, filed December 4, 2001.

Amend the paragraph beginning at Page 5, line 1 as follows:

A² is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkenyl, C₆₋₁₀aryl, C₁₋₆alkyl(CO)(C₁₋₆)alkyl-O-, HO(CO)(C₁₋₆)alkyl, mono-(C₆₋₁₀aryl)(C₁₋₆alkyl), di-(C₆₋₁₀aryl)(C₁₋₆alkyl) or tri-(C₆₋₁₀aryl)(C₁₋₆alkyl); and R³ is para-nitrobenzyl or allyl, preferably allyl; with a suitable deprotecting agent in the presence of a solvent.

Amend the paragraph beginning at Page 5, line 9 as follows:

The term "cycloalkyl", as used herein, unless otherwise indicated, includes a mono or bicyclic carboxycyclic ring (e.g., cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptal, cyclooctyl, cyclononyl, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptanyl, bicyclo[3.2.1]octanyl and bicyclo[5.2.0]nonanyl, etc.); optionally substituted by 1 to 3 suitable substituents as defined below such as fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethyl, (C₁₋₄)alkoxy, (C₆₋₁₀)aryloxy, trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or (C₁₋₄)alkyl, more preferably fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl or methoxy.

Add the following after Page 5, line 15;

The term "cycloalkenyl," as used herein, unless otherwise indicated, includes a monocarbocyclic ring (e.g., cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl, cycloheptenyl, cyclooctenyl, cyclononenyl, etc.) optionally substituted by 1 to 3 suitable substituents as defined below such as fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethyl, (C₁₋₄)alkoxy, (C₆₋₁₀)aryloxy trifluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy or (C₁₋₄)alkyl, more preferably fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl or methoxy.